



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Lucas, et al

Serial No.: 09/317,409

Filed: May 24, 1999

For: Products and Methods of  
Core Crush Prevention

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: Befumo, Jenna Leigh

**Amendment in Response to Final  
Office Action and RCE**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Sir:

This correspondence is in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 28, 2004, regarding the above-entitled application for which the time to respond is through March 28, 2005.

Filed herewith is a Request for Continued Examination.

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Please amend the application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.